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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

INK OCHi

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

VOL-1 ISSUE - 33
NOV 26-DEC 02, 2021

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TAROT READING CHAITALI

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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE
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Editor's Note

Importance Of Art And Craft In Early Childhood Education

The importance of art and craft in early education is well-known. Be it making miniature statues from clay or coloring with crayons, folding papers expertly to make origami shapes or preparing a handmade birthday card, there are numerous benefits of art and craft activities.

Also, art and craft activities spike a child's interest and tap his artistic potential. By introducing your child to art and craft or encouraging him to take it up, you will sow the seeds for his physical, social and cognitive development.

The importance of art and craft in child development can be gauged from the fact it has emotional, physical, cognitive and learning benefits. It develops fine motor skills, increases dexterity, improves hand-eye coordination, encourages self-expression, helps in socialising, boosts self-esteem, enhances innovation and creative ability, sharpens decision-making skills, improves visual learning and memory etc...

The various benefits of arts and crafts also extend to the development of cultural awareness and improved academic performance as well. When so many benefits are packaged in arts and crafts, and that too with fun and excitement, why not allow your child to engage in it?

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

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ROYAL CENOTAPHS

ORCHHA

Madhya Pradesh

Thought by:
ILF Expert
Ramyani Sengupta

Orchha, the Bundela Rajputs' capital from 1531 to 1783 C.E ., is home to a multitude of ancient palaces, gardens, temples, and paintings that showcase their achievements in art, architecture, and landscape design. On the banks of the Betwa, to the south, a set of cenotaphs known as chattris, rise as memorials to Bundela kings and queens.

The primary concept underlying the creation of the chhatris is to commemorate the departed and give their names permanency. The construction of the chhatri was undertaken by the deceased's successor, as is seen in most cases. The objective of erecting the burial monument appears to have been to create an aura around both the deceased and the current ruler. In reality, these monuments were built to honour the rulers' memory and deeds, and to serve as a reminder to their successors and future generations of their great accomplishments. The cenotaph is a stone canopy supported by four, twelve, or more columns constructed over solid stone, behind which the deceased's ashes may or may not have been interred, on or near the cremation site. The size and shape of the monument were determined by the ruler and his state's social, political, and economic position. >>

ROYAL CENOTAPHS ORCHHA

Orchha rose to importance in history as the capital of the Bundela Chief, Raja Rudra Pratap. Orchha is a town in Tikamgarh district, Madhya Pradesh, located on the left bank of the Betwa River, about 13 kilometres from the tahsil headquarters and 15 kilometres from Jhansi (UP). The River Betwa divides the municipality into two halves. The major city, which includes the Ram Raja Temple, the Chaturbhuja Temple, the Phool Bagh, the Lakshmi Narayana Mandir, and the cenotaph, is located on the western bank.

During the Bundela era, architectural forms evolved around the 16th and 17th centuries, displaying their own unique architectural characteristics. The use of high portals over the principal entrances is such an example. Further, the carved niches inside the square panels, and artwork on the walls can be seen as perfect examples of the architectural style. The slanting eaves with moulded brackets were used extensively. East-facing entrances and courtyards constructed to be at the heart of the building. The architectural style of the era drew largely from the Delhi Sultans, the Mughals and Rajputs. However, Bundela architecture evolved its own unique features over time. >>

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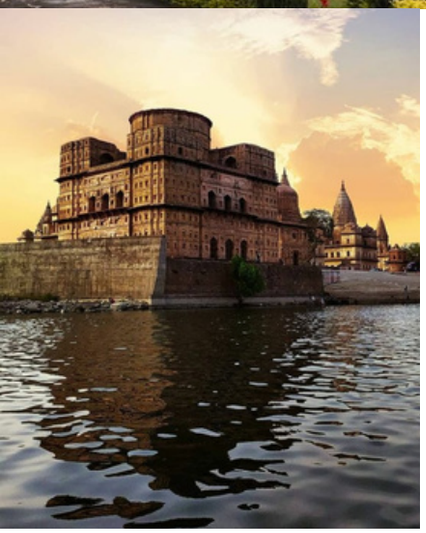
Vol-1 Issue-33



ROYAL CENOTAPHS ORCHHA

These Chattris are dedicated to King Bharti Chandra, Madhukar Raja, Sujan Singh Shah, Bir Singh Dev, Jaswant Singh, Maharaja Sawant Singh, Maharaja Bhagwan Singh, Maharaja Indramani Singh, Pahad Singh, and other dignities. The majority of the chattris are erected in the Panchayatan Style.

The architecture of Maharaja Sujan Singh of Bundela's Chhatri is at its most advanced state. A three-storey rectangular building erected in the Nagar style consists of a square chamber at each corner with a topped dome. The central chamber features three arched doorways and temple architecture in the Nagar Style Shikhar. The windows are strategically positioned to provide for plenty of natural light and air. Veer Singh Dev's Cenotaph incorporates Islamic characteristics such as big domes and sturdy pillars. It has a stairwell that leads to the summit. It provides a stunning panoramic view of Orchha and its surroundings, as well as a magnificent view from the river side with their reflection in the water. <>

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Fashion Statement Out of Paper

BY: ASYA KOZINA

COVER

Asya Kozina & Dmitriy Kosin They create extravagant baroque inspired paper wigs

Article by: Daria Klimasheva / Arctic Paper

Asya Kozina, from Ukraine, and Dmitriy Kozin, from Russia, glance at history and create modern versions of the clothes and wigs of the past. The beautiful, elegant and bombastic concept is based on historical epochs and expressed mainly in paper wigs. – The history of costume, clothing and accessories is the platform and the foundation of our work, says Asya Kozina. >>

Fashion Statement Out of Paper

Asya Kozina's and Dmitriy Kozin's joint history is based on the Baroque era, bombastic expression and their fascination for sculptures and paper art. They live in perfect symbiosis and complement each other, in daily life and at work.

– Dmitriy is the innovator, the fearless dreamer and the adventurer. I am the thorough hardworking perfectionist, says Asya, and Dmitriy adds:

– I completely agree with Asya, and I want to add that what she does is just perfect, fantastically talented and masterful. >>

It all begun ten years ago when Asya created a series of miniature wigs in paper, which she exhibited in her hometown, Cherkasy, Ukraine. Five years later, she followed up with a vernissage where models carried her clothes and wigs of paper. The vernissage was a success. Since then, Asya and Dmitriy have developed their paper wigs further, but always with history as the foundation.

– We chose the Baroque era for our first project as it is so inspiring. It is very important for an artist to base a project on something rich in associations. The entire history of fashion is an inexhaustible source of inspiration for us, says Dmitriy. >>

"At some point I even hesitated becoming an artist, because it meant too much responsibility and setting too high a goal."

Fashion Statement Out of Paper

To Asya, the garments and wigs are more than just fabric from the past. Every piece of clothing tells a story about exactly why it was created and is a symbol for its time, a connection both she and Dmitriy are deeply fascinated in.

– I think we long for something long-forgotten, as popular culture puts too much emphasis on technical progress and efficiency. This is why we love the Baroque era. The value of those wigs were primarily aesthetic, they were notably uncomfortable to wear, but they were also wonderfully beautiful and exquisite, not necessarily practical or having a powerful message. I think people are so tired of special effects, says Dmitriy. >>

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Fashion Statement Out of Paper

Modern Baroque design

Their work is based on a lot of research, reading library books from cover to cover. Asya studies pictures, illustrations and visits museums to get as different perspectives as possible, to create a genuine image.

– Our creative process always begins with making sketches of our ideas, or even writing them down and discussing them together. Then we research the subject and start the actual work. We may change something in the process, but in most cases, we know what we want and move towards our goal. It is great to be completely absorbed in the project and to work around the clock. Pizza is a given on those days, says Dmitry. >>

In their projects, they let themselves be inspired by the past, while choosing to combine the past with the present. They embrace the spirit of the Baroque and make it modern vintage.

– Baroque and Rococo wigs used to be adorned with symbols of luxury, sophistication and the romantic spirit of the time, such as model frigates, stuffed birds and exotic flowers, so we asked ourselves which modern objects would best serve as symbols of our time. >>

Fashion Statement Out of Paper

For Asya and Dmitriy, the technique is less important, but rather the result. They rely on their spontaneity and ingenuity to bring them bombastic results.

Family tree as inspiration

The art has been a companion since childhood through life, for both Asya and Dmitriy. They have been surrounded by creative expression in different forms.

– I grew up in a family in which everyone was involved in art. My dad is a printing designer, my mother is the founder of a private Art Studio at which she teaches fine and decorative arts. I have watched and breathed art for as long as I can remember, says Asya. >>

Fashion Statement Out of Paper

Dmitriy comes from a similar background with an artistic family. His grandfather was a celebrated artist, and Dmitriy's dad followed in his footsteps.

– At some point I even hesitated becoming an artist, because it meant too much responsibility and setting too high a goal. Then I realized that doing what you really like is far more important than outshining your father or grandfather. >>

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Fashion Statement Out of Paper

Their background eventually became a solid foundation to build upon and to rely on when they developed their own creative expressions.

– I have always been fascinated by paper, ever since I fell in love with my grandmother's intricately cut Chinese bookmarks. At the age of ten I fell ill and had to spend a lot of time in bed. My mother showed me the technique of symmetric paper cutting and I was hooked for a long time, and I still am. My parents still treasure the album with my first pieces of work, says Asya. <>

FACTS

Name: Asya Kozina & Dmitriy Kozin
Title: Paper artists
Favorite material: "We always choose the kind of paper suitable for our project"
Favorite tool: Knife OLFA AK-4
Web: asyakozina-art.com

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An Open Letter To Indian Parents – Why You Should Let Your Daughter Travel Solo.

By: Reshma Narasing

I'm Reshma Narasing, a slow traveler and a free-spirit on the road for over 7 years. Through this blog The Solo Globetrotter, my goal is to provide you with very valuable tips to help you plan epic trips to popular and hidden gem destinations around the world. Happy Travels!

Recently, I had gone to attend TTF, a travel trade show that was held in Bangalore. As I was walking, a girl ran from behind and stopped in front of me and introduced herself. We exchanged pleasantries and she began.

“I got your card yesterday from my colleague. I love travelling a lot and so I went home and read your blog. I’m really inspired by you. I have a lot of questions for you, but the most important ones are,
Do you REALLY travel alone all the time?
&
How do you convince your parents?” >>

I felt a mixture of emotions. I felt happy and humbled that I had inspired someone. Her questions also reminded me of the way people perceive travel in India.

I answered, “Yes, most of the time, I travel alone. It’s been close to 3 years now. Since becoming a full-time blogger and a traveller, I travel for long periods now and my friends or family often don’t have so much time to accompany, which means I mostly travel solo.”

She looked partly convinced, excited and thrilled at the same time. Then, I tried answering the second part.

I had a tough time convincing my parents at the beginning. But I started small. My dad still worries every time I pack my bags, but I stay in touch as much as I can and now that this is what I mostly do, he has accepted it and supports me.” >>

To which she replied in bewilderment, “I think that’s because you are from Bangalore. My parents are from UP, and I want to travel alone so much, but it has never been possible. I always have to give the numbers of my friends, show my photos with them for proof, and convince for so long before I plan or think of a trip, leave alone traveling solo!”

I was surprised.

Are parents in Bangalore cooler than the ones in UP?

I said, “Whether you are from UP or Karnataka, it doesn’t matter. The bottom line is they are parents, and especially, they are Indian parents!

She got my point then and asked for travel tips. We chatted for a while before I took off. >>

an open letter

The conversation ended there, but my thoughts hadn't.

As for the first question, I have got used to all kinds of questions for travelling solo, the most irrelevant and the unexpected one being, "Are you straight?"

So I have reached a point where I don't feel annoyed or pressurised anymore. In fact, I have my answers ready depending on who asks me the question.

Well, it was her second question that made me wonder.

Why is this part so difficult? Why in India is a girl going by herself on a trip such a big deal?

I had this urge to blog about the misconceptions, fears, the mindset of Indian parents and our culture in general, which unfortunately stops thousands of girls at home to step out. Although I have already blogged positively about solo travelling, I specifically wanted to touch upon parents' part.

I want to share some of these with the parents of daughters of India. I sincerely hope you do read this. >>

an open letter

Dear Parents of India,

I'm Reshma, a next-door Indian girl who grew up in a pampered, typical Indian middle-class family. I joined the rank race in school, tried hard to stay at the top, graduated to became an engineer (I know, no surprises here), only to realise that I didn't like my job nor my degree. After I found that I am the happiest while travelling and writing, I took it up as my full-time job years later when I finally mustered enough courage last year.

Okay, I know you might already be having a lot of thoughts and questions. I might even have broken many 'societal norms' in your eyes already. But let's keep that aside for now, because today it's not about me, but about the daughters like me. >>

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an open letter

I'm not old or wise enough to advise or suggest. But based on what I have learnt during my travelling and what life has offered, I want to share my slice of thoughts.

You pamper your daughters, protect them, and give them the best that you can. You give the best education. She gets a job and earns some money. A few years later, one day you marry her off to a suitable boy. Her first stage of life is 'settled', you have carried out your major 'responsibilities' and her first 'milestone' is met. Well, if you ask me what the second milestone is, it is having a kid.

So I'm skipping this scheduled timelines of life as set by our society for now as it's a different ball game altogether.

So coming back to my point, all these might be the things that you would want to do from your end for your daughter.

But, what does your daughter want? Can and what if she at any point begs to differ?

What if she comes to you one day and tells that she wants more out of life than these? What if she says she wants to experience things that are not in this ladder?

What happens if she flies from the warm nest and takes a trip alone? Would you let her take the trip that she's been dreaming of for so long?

Let's assume and imagine that she gets the 'permission' to travel and gets lucky to do that solo trip. >>

So when your daughter does travels alone, she basically gets a chance to put into practice all that you have thought throughout her life.

Remember, you pampered her from the cradle and she is your doting princess. Now she has flown and there is no one beside her. She has to plan, take care, protect her and of course, yes, travel!

It will scare her in the beginning. She will be overwhelmed. The strangers around her will intimidate her. She'll miss the comforts of home and the fear of stepping out of that zone will look threatening to her.

But, the truth is, all these will pass. The moment she boards that bus or lands in a new town, she'll smile and realise that they were only the demons in her head. So, she'll rise. She'll bounce up.

No, I'm not painting a rosy picture or trying to be poetic, but my point is, she will surely be OKAY.

Your daughter will become more confident about herself. She'll learn to handle problems on her own, learn to manage the hurdles that come along. She'll learn to make decisions on the go, learn to take care of herself. >>

More than everything, she'll realise that the world around is not as bad as she had imagined or conceived. The warmth and kindness of the strangers, the smiling faces of the kids, the clouds, rivers, mountains, food, culture and the beaches will make her immensely happy. She'll learn to let go of things that are beyond her control. When she misses the luxury she had back home, she'll start valuing what she has.

She'll appreciate the little things that she gets on the road. She'll also understand that she doesn't need a knight in the armour to save and protect her always, and she can be self-reliable.

That short trip would have made her a better person. She would know how to handle problems. She would know how to stay calm when life throws lemons, because hey, she would have seen worse.

When your daughter returns from a trip, she would be a self-reliant, smart, compassionate and a wonderful woman with loads of experiences and lessons for life.

I don't imply that she was not any of these before the trip or she has to travel to become self-reliant. What I mean is travel is a great teacher. It brings in experiences that are unique, priceless and memorable.

So next time when your daughter asks for your permission to go on that weekend trip, please do allow her. >>

Make sure she takes all the precautions and keeps in touch with you, but please do allow her to spread her wings and fly, at least for a while!

With love,

Reshma.

On a side note, I don't imply this only to young women. This is for my fellow women of all age groups out there. In fact, whether it's a woman or a man, a son or a daughter, young or old, rich or poor, I think we all should venture out at least once alone to different experience the beautiful world that we live in.

Please note that the thoughts expressed are purely my opinions. If you feel differently, then I don't have any complaints or grudges against you!

This post has been published first in Youth Ki Awaaz. <>

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Award-winning poet, essayist, and translator Jane Hirshfield is the author of nine collections of poetry, including Ledger (2020); The Beauty (2015), longlisted for the National Book Award; Come, Thief (2011), a finalist for the PEN USA Poetry Award; and Given Sugar, Given Salt (2001), a finalist for the National Book Critics Award. Hirshfield is also the author of two collections of essays, Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry (1997) and Ten Windows: How Great Poems Transform the World (2015), and has edited and co-translated four books collecting the work of world poets from the past: The Ink Dark Moon: Poems by Ono no Komachi and Izumi Shikibu, Women of the Ancient Court of Japan (1990); Women in Praise of the Sacred: Forty-Three Centuries of Spiritual Poetry by Women (1994); Mirabai: Ecstatic Poems (2004); and The Heart of Haiku (2011).

Jane Hirshfield was born in New York. She received her education from Princeton University.

Jane Hirschfield

The Weighing

The heart's reasons
seen clearly,
even the hardest
will carry
its whip-marks and sadness
and must be forgiven.

As the drought-starved
eland forgives
the drought-starved lion
who finally takes her,
enters willingly then
the life she cannot refuse,
and is lion, is fed,
and does not remember the other.

So few grains of happiness
measured against all the dark
and still the scales balance.

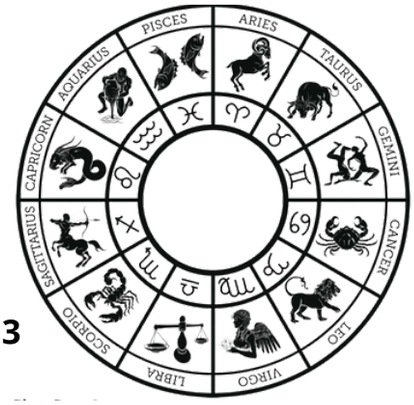
The world asks of us
only the strength we have and we give it.
Then it asks more, and we give it.

Jane Hirschfield

WEEKLY Tarot Reading

By: Chaitali Mukherjee

https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313



Your Next 7 Days

Nov 26-Dec 02, 2021

This week love and job fits in perfectly. Great family and love life, complete emotional satisfaction. Born to win hearts you will win respect and admiration from people. Good earnings and accomplishments.

ARIES

LIBRA

Thanks to useful contacts things will work out magically for you. You will find a gratifying job or project. Surprise celebrations due to family reunions or repatriation. Financial growth will be commensurate to risk.

Capitalize on your talents and trust yourself. Reassuring news, advantageous contracts from near and far. Pure happiness in love and family relationships. Deserved public recognition or high level of achievement in work.

TAURUS

SCORPIO

Don't trust someone blindly, the suspicion that you've in your heart is not truly groundless, there could be betrayal on the cards. Clarification on a health crisis will reassure you. Major success and complete renewal after a crisis.

Don't let anyone condition your values. Gossips, whims and unsolicited advice will not work for you. Your partners can get on your nerves with futile discussions and disagreements. Don't let someone take advantage of your goodwill.

GEMINI

SAGITTARIUS

Positive transformation in the professional sphere. A lot will change affecting collaborations and job. A proposal works for you, could be away from home. You will reach the height of your career, winning admiration and respect.

A week of contemplation, over a disappointing situation in family or with a lover. Clarity is essential. Some project or work will end, causing a break in work or career. There could be a clash with a boss, parent or official.

CANCER

CAPRICORN

A restful holiday or a pleasant trip coming up with a partner or family. Or a temporary separation will give you a chance to clear ideas. Buying or selling of property, acquisition or restructuring of a house is on the cards.

Put more courage and enthusiasm in what you do to obtain excellent results. Brilliant plans need execution. A master stroke discovery or invention improves your prospects. After a distress recovery is slow but sure. Small pleasures in life.

LEO

AQUARIUS

Accept an impending break up to start a new life. Clarification or surprise confession of a partner will shatter an illusion. Beware of thefts and frauds around you. A career choice made because of extreme ambition could be counter productive.

This week would be dedicated to family in terms of energy and affection. You will make up for sorrow caused or efforts made. Desired goals would be within reach. Promotion or graduation, start of material or physical wellbeing.

VIRGO

PISCES

Important news or notice may come to liven you up professionally. Your love relationship has a chance to grow deeper as your partner turns a better person thanks to you. Excellent chances of success in talents and skills.

To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage

Tail-Hanger

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